the oregon trail

educational computing activities
for the **apple® II** computer

Product No. H-106

Diskette and Instruction Booklet

A Word About MECC

MECC was created in 1973. Ours is the oldest, most trusted name in educational computing.

MECC has enjoyed a long tradition of designing and producing high-quality educational software for a world market. Our ever-expanding collection of over 200 products can be used on a variety of personal computers.

Widely adopted by schools, MECC's educational software is now available for home use. **The Oregon Trail** is just one example of the excellence you can expect from us.

MECC. The Leader in Educational Technology.

© MECC
3490 Lexington Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55126

ISBN 0-87490-049-2

July 1985
Latest Printing: October 1988

Apple® II is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. of Cupertino, California. All diskettes are protected with an anti-copy software component, copyright ©MECC, 1985. U.S. Copyright Law prohibits the reproduction of computer software.

Welcome to The Oregon Trail

What was it like to bid farewell to friends and neighbors and set off on a 2000-mile trek by covered wagon? Maybe you're a farmer who plows fields with an ox team, but do you know how to drive several yoke of oxen across prairies, rivers, and Rocky Mountain trails?

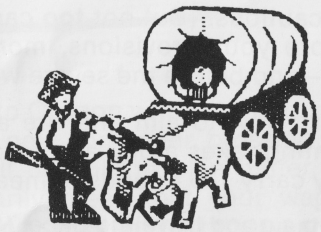
Maybe you're a farmer's wife who, after chores, household work, and taking care of your husband and children, is glad simply to fall asleep in your own feather bed. Will you like riding day after day in a jolting wagon on hot, dust-whipped trails, with only a thin layer of linen between you and the heavy rains?

Maybe you're a child, big enough to milk cows and help gather in the wheat. You think you're off for a big adventure. You'll see Indians streak across the plains on horseback! You'll see herds of antelope and the giant buffalo! You'll see snow-capped mountains! Just keep thinking of those mountains when the wagon is stuck in mud past the axles . . . when you're thirsty and too tired to swat the swarms of mosquitoes buzzing around your head . . . when you wish you were back in Illinois, running through the apple orchard with your friends.

Whoever you are, you can relive the journeys of real pioneers. All you need is your imagination and a little help from MECC's re-creation of the Oregon Trail.

The Oregon Trail requires an Apple II series computer with 64K of memory.

One program
For use by one or more players
Ages 10 and up



Who Wants to Go to Oregon, Anyway?

Well, some rich folks did. Some rich Easterners put on overalls and bought an "outfit." An outfit was everything—the wagon and all provisions. You can be a banker from Boston with $2500 to buy what you want at Matt's General Store and at stopping places along the trail. Or you can be a carpenter from Ohio with $1000, or a farmer from Illinois with $400.

What Those Who Made It to Oregon Have to Tell You

Be cautious. (But not **too** cautious. You need to get to Oregon before your provisions, money, animals, or endurance gives out—and before the severe winter weather begins.)

Learn how to aim and fire a rifle. (But don't fire it **too** often. Hunting takes a day away from the trail, and besides, you can only carry 100 pounds of meat back to the wagon.)

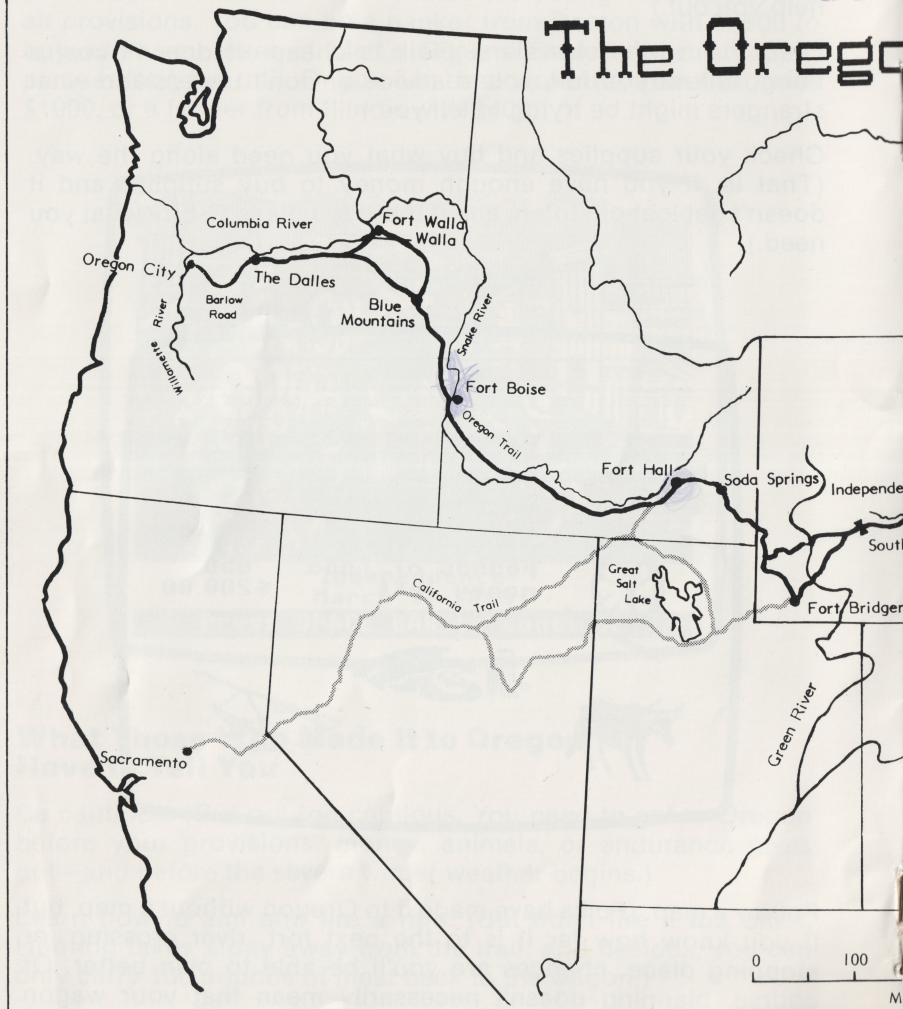
Keep a good traveling pace. (Only **you** know what a "good pace" is for the health and progress of your party.)

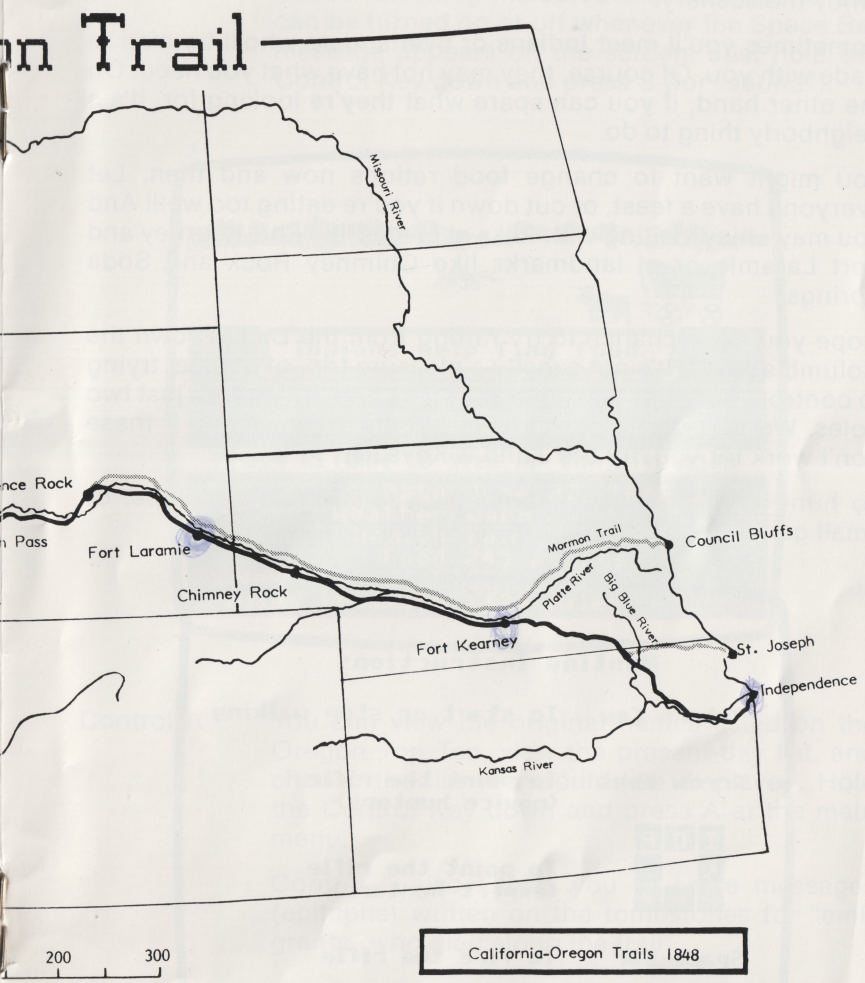
Learn how to cross a river. (No steamboats for **these** river crossings! You'll have to hire a ferry, caulk your wagon and float—or maybe you'll be lucky enough to meet an Indian who'll help you out.)

Learn from other travelers. (Talk is cheap—it doesn't cost a thing, unless you follow bad advice or don't understand what strangers might be trying to tell you.)

Check your supplies and buy what you need along the way. (That is, if you have enough money to buy supplies and it doesn't get lost or stolen, and if there **is** a place to buy what you need.)

Follow a map. (Folks have made it to Oregon without a map, but if you know how far it is to the next fort, river crossing, or stopping place, chances are you'll be able to plan better. Of course, planning doesn't necessarily mean that your wagon won't break down, that cholera won't strike, or that the weather won't make you lose your way.)


The Orego
Columbia River
Fort Walla Walla
Oregon City
The Dalles
Barlow Road
Blue Mountains
Willamette River
Snake River
Fort Boise
Oregon Trail
Fort Hall
Soda Springs
Independe
Sout
Great Salt Lake
California Trail
Fort Bridger
Green River
Sacramento
0
100
M


n Trail
Missouri River
nce Rock
h Pass
Fort Laramie
Chimney Rock
Mormon Trail
Council Bluffs
Platte River
Big Blue River
Fort Kearney
St. Joseph
Independence
Kansas River
200
300
iles
California-Oregon Trails 1848

Things To Do Along the Trail Besides Work

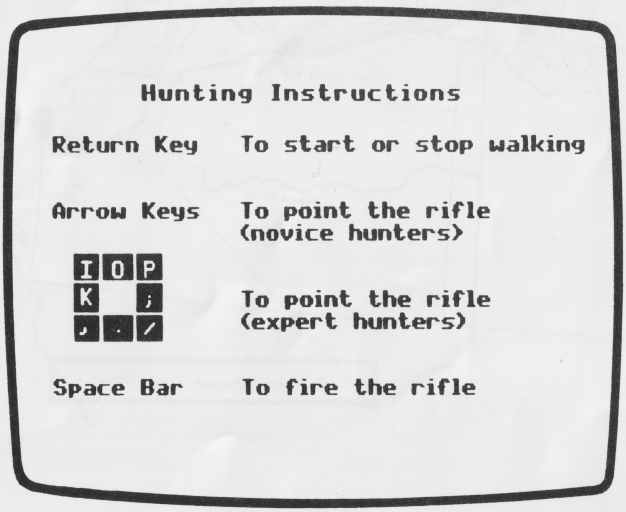
Stopping to rest is a good idea. Take time to restore your health. Enjoy the scenery!

Sometimes you'll meet Indians or overlanders who'll be glad to trade with you. Of course, they may not have what you need. On the other hand, if you can spare what **they're** looking for, it's a neighborly thing to do.

You might want to change food rations now and then. Let everyone have a feast, or cut down if you're eating too well! And you may enjoy visiting with folks at places like Fort Kearney and Fort Laramie or at landmarks like Chimney Rock and Soda Springs.

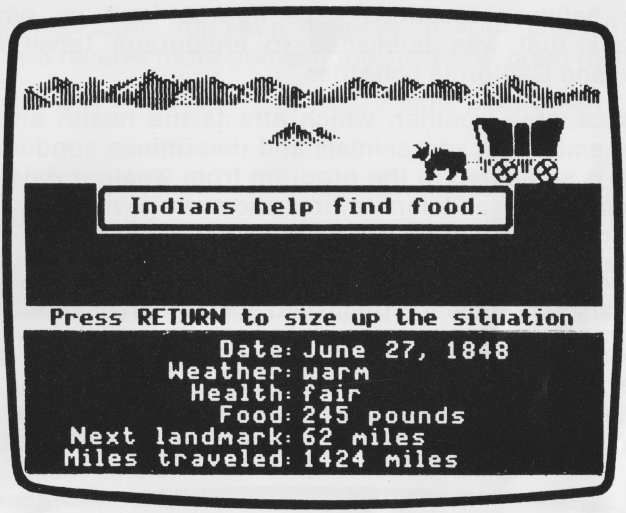
Hope you get a chance to try rafting from the Dalles down the Columbia River. It's not exactly a pleasure trip, of course, trying to control your direction amid sandbars and rapids with just two poles. We call your poles Left- and Right-Arrow Keys. If these don't work for you, try the J and K Keys.

To hunt along the way—whether it's for buffalo, antelope, or small game—you'll need to know what to do.



What a 20th-Century Returning Emigrant Has to Tell You

Control-S — Those rollicking melodies heard along the trail can be turned on or off whenever the Space Bar message appears on the screen. Just hold the Control Key down and press S (for "sound").



Control-A — You can view the original names listed on the Oregon Top Ten, view the present-day list, and choose the list you would like displayed. Hold the Control Key down and press A at the main menu.

Control-A also allows you to erase messages (epitaphs) written on the tombstones for "emigrants" who died along the trail.

Facts About MECC's The Oregon Trail

Graphics in the program are interpretations of descriptions recorded in pioneer diaries and, whenever possible, of paintings and lithographs of actual locations.

Mileage between locations uses figures from an emigrant guidebook that was published to encourage travel to the "Oregon and California countries."

The inescapable weather, which affects the health and well-being of emigrants and animals and determines conditions on the trail, is simulated in the program from weather data of the actual monthly mean temperatures and average monthly rainfall for six typical locations along the Oregon Trail.

Events and what people tell you along the trail are based on actual diary accounts and published scholarly research.

Fantasy merges with reality in the hunting and rafting games. However, you're more likely to encounter a buffalo on the plains and a bear in the mountains. And many a journey ended with a trip from the Dalles down the Columbia River.

What Happens If You Make It to Oregon?

You'll be exhausted. But you'll have the satisfaction of having succeeded and knowing that the name of your party may make the Oregon Top Ten. Furthermore, if you happen to be a carpenter, you'll receive double the points that the banker from Boston receives. And if you're a farmer, your points will triple!

You receive points for each member of your party to arrive safely; you receive more points if they arrive in good health!

Health of Party	Points per Person
good	500
fair	400
poor	300
very poor	200

You also receive points for each item to arrive safely.

Resources of Party	Points per Item
wagon	50
ox	4
spare wagon part	2
set of clothing	2
bullets (each 50)	1
food (each 25 pounds)	1
cash (each 5 dollars)	1

What Those Who Didn't Make It to Oregon Will Tell You

"If I'd known better, I would have found out about covered wagons, ox teams, and crossing the plains and mountains. And I'd have found out about the different Indians along the way and why they think all those buffalo are so special. Guess I'd have studied a few maps, too, and read what those folks who made it had to say about the Oregon Trail!"

General Lee Stillworthtrying

The Oregon Trail Rewards

The Oregon Trail stimulates your imagination as you develop your problem-solving skills and learn about an important phase of American history. Persistence and determination lead to greater success as you pursue your goal.

MECC produced the original computer version of **The Oregon Trail** in 1975. Since then, **Oregon,** in its original and subsequent versions, has been used by more children in schools than any other computer program ever. Join the millions who have learned from and have enjoyed **The Oregon Trail.**

You're sure to enjoy all MECC products designed for home use: **Calendar Crafter, Fraction Munchers, The Friendly Computer, Jenny's Journeys, The Market Place, Number Munchers, The Oregon Trail, Paint with Words, Path Tactics, Problem-Solving Strategies, Spellevator, Word Munchers,** and **Zoyon Patrol.**

Visit your local software dealer or contact us for more information on how to obtain MECC products. Call 800/228-3504 or 612/481-3500; in Minnesota call 800/782-0032.

3490 Lexington Avenue North
St. Paul, MN 55126